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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Supports the Renovation of Kiril I Metodij Primary School in Makedonska Kamenica

USAID, as a part of the U.S. mission in Macedonia is investing in school renovations throughout the country. In 'Kiril I Metodij' Primary School in Makedonska Kamenica, the restrooms were refurbished. The successful ending of the project activity was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 22nd. This project has contributed to an essential partnership between the municipality and the school community.

"School renovations are one of the first steps towards the improvement of education, and only a part of how the United States is working to improve education in Macedonia," said USAID Mission Director Michael Fritz. "But we will not stop here. We will maintain our course of realizing this kind of project, in order to improve the quality of primary education in Macedonia."

The renovation component of the Primary Education Project supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of the responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. So far, 77 school renovations have been carried out by PEP. By 2011, over 120 schools will be renovated, which is nearly one-third of the primary schools in Macedonia. The project also works to increase access to and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

The Primary Education Project, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase students' employment skills. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.